Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Red Meat Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Annual Crop Summary Tables
Wheat Supply and Demand -ERS

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on January 1, 2006. The inventory was 4 percent above January 1, 2005 and 5 percent above January 1, 2004. The inventory included 7.57 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.15 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.88 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 8 percent above 2003. This is the highest placements for the month of December since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.79 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 575,000, 600-699 pounds were 554,000, 700-799 pounds were 430,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 325,000. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.72 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 91,000 during December, 1 percent below 2004 but 1 percent above 2003.

Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 3.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2006, down 3 percent from the previous year. Ninety-six percent of the 2005 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 13 major potato States held 219 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2006, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below January 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 10 percent round white, 2 percent long white (Shepody), and 86 percent russets, with a smaller percentage of reds and long whites but a larger percentage of russets than a year ago for comparable States.

Disappearance of 154 million cwt from the start of harvest to January 1, is down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 16.2 million cwt, is down 14 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 81.7 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 5 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below 2 years ago. Both Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 6 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 16.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 14 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2004.

Western States held 156 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, down 5 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 12 percent from last year, Colorado's potato sheds stored 11 percent less than in 2005, stocks in Montana are 3 percent below last season, and California's stocks decreased 43 percent from last year. Oregon's potato stocks are up 14 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 7 percent more than last season.

December 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 2005, unchanged from the previous December, but up 2 percent from November 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,145 pounds, dropped 5 pounds from 2004.

During December there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 242 pounds, decreased 5 pounds from last year. December sheep slaughter in the state totaled 400 head, unchanged from December 2004. The average live weight decreased 1 pound from last year to 117 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004. Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,100 head, down 19 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2005 commercial red meat production was 45.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

December Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from December 2004. November revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.6 percent from November 2004. The November revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,665 pounds for December, 55 pounds above December 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 67,000 head more than December 2004, and 4,000 head more than November 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the October - December quarter totaled 43.6 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 31,000 head more than the same period last year.

2005 Annual Row Crop and Pulse Summary

Crop	MONTANA							US Production (000)
	Year	Planted Acres (000)	Harvested Acres (000)	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production (000)	Season Avg. Price Dollars 1/	Value of Production (000) 1/	
Winter	2003	1,900	1,820	37.0	67,340	$3.56	$239,730	1,716,721
Wheat	2004	1,900	1,630	41.0	66,830	$3.35	$223,881	1,499,434
	2005	2,150	2,100	**45.0	94,500	--	--	1,499,129
Durum	2003	640	630	23.0	14,490	$4.07	$58,974	96,637
Wheat	2004	570	545	**33.0	17,985	$3.90	**$70,142	89,893
	2005	590	585	28.0	16,380	--	--	101,105
Other	2003	2,900	2,750	22.0	60,500	$3.78	$228,690	531,402
Spring	2004	3,000	2,850	31.0	88,350	$3.60	$318,060	568,918
Wheat	2005	2,600	2,550	32.0	81,600	--	--	504,456
All	2003	5,440	5,200	27.4	142,330	$3.73	$530,891	2,344,760
Wheat	2004	5,470	5,025	34.5	173,165	$3.55	$612,083	2,158,245
	2005	5,340	5,235	36.8	192,480	--	--	2,104,690
Barley	2003	1,150	850	40.0	34,000	$2.93	$99,620	278,283
	2004	1,000	830	**59.0	48,970	$2.85	$139,565	279,743
	2005	900	700	56.0	39,200	--	--	211,896
Oats	2003	120	45	44.0	1,980	$1.70	$3,366	144,383
	2004	105	40	60.0	2,400	$1.70	$4,080	115,935
	2005	90	35	53.0	1,855	--	--	114,878
Corn	2003	68	17	140.0	2,380	$2.65	$6,307	10,089,222
for	2004	70	15	143.0	2,145	$2.50	$5,363	11,807,217
Grain 2/	2005	65	17	**148.0	2,516	--	--	11,112,072
		(000)	(000)	Tons	(000)		(000)	(000)
Corn	2003	--	49	**24.0	1,176	--	--	107,378
for Silage	2004	--	51	22.0	1,122	--	--	107,336
	2005	--	46	**24.0	1,104	--	--	106,311
Sugar	2003	51.7	51.5	**25.4	1,308	$43.00	$56,224	30,710
Beets	2004	53.7	52.1	21.7	1,131	--	--	29,956
	2005	53.9	49.9	22.9	1,143	--	--	27,254
Alfalfa	2003	--	1,600	2.10	3,360	$75.00	$252,000	76,273
Hay 3/	2004	--	1,400	2.30	3,220	$77.00	$252,770	75,383
	2005	--	**1,750	2.20	3,850	--	--	74,819
Other	2003	--	850	1.50	1,275	$68.50	$87,338	81,312
Hay 3/	2004	--	1,100	1.40	1,540	$70.00	$109,340	82,391
	2005	--	1,250	1.60	**2,000	--	--	76,931
All	2003	--	2,450	1.89	4,635	$73.50	$340,672	157,585
Hay 3/	2004	--	2,500	1.90	4,760	$76.00	$362,110	157,774
	2005	--	**3,000	1.95	**5,850	--	--	150,590
Sweet	2003	--	--	--	2,060	$1,710.00	$3,163	245,7000
Cherries 4/	2004	--	--	--	2,360	**$2,020.00	**$4,473	283,100
	2005	--	--	--	1,300	--	--	226,550
		(000)	(000)	Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall	2003	10.7	10.6	315	3,339	$7.60	$25,376	410,588
Potatoes	2004	10.7	10.6	**335	**3,551	$7.50	$26,633	410,253
	2005	11.0	10.9	315	3,434	--	--	382,523
All	2003	13.0	12.8	18.2	233	$18.20	$4,241	22,492
Dry	2004	13.0	12.7	22.4	285	$26.30	$7,496	17,788
Beans	2005	18.0	14.1	20.0	282	--	--	27,222
Pinto	2003	*9.7	*9.7	21.5	209	--	--	10,453
Beans	2004	10.8	10.6	23.8	252	--	--	7,814
	2005	12.0	10.0	23.9	239	--	--	13,110
Garbanzo	2003	3.2	3.0	*7.3	*22	--	--	417
Beans	2004	*2.2	*2.1	15.7	33	--	--	593
	2005	6.0	4.1	10.5	43	--	--	1,098
All Other	2003	0.1	0.1	2.0	2	--	--	772
Beans	2004	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	--	--	604
	2005	0.0	0.0	0.0		--	--	754
Lentils	2003	30.0	26.0	10.5	273	$15.40	$4,204	2,442
	2004	78.0	72.0	**14.0	1,008	**$15.60	**$15,725	4,182
	2005	**150.0	**146.0	12.8	**1,869	--	--	5,163
Dry Peas	2003	33.0	31.0	14.5	450	**$8.10	$3,645	5,202
	2004	68.0	63.0	**20.1	1,266	$6.00	$7,596	11,419
	2005	**135.0	**122.0	18.0	**2,196	--	--	14,003
Austrian	2003	*9.5	7.0	8.0	56	$10.40	$582	174
Winter Peas	2004	14.0	11.0	9.0	99	$10.20	**$1,010	291
	2005	**25.0	**13.0	**12.2	**159	--	--	307

1/ Season average price and value of production for 2005 are not yet available. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay.
4/ Total production. -- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

2005 Annual Oilseed Summary

Crop	Year	MONTANA						US Production (000)
		Planted Acres (000)	Harvested Acres (000)	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production (000)	Season Avg. Price 1/	Value of Production (000) 1/	
Flaxseed	2003	17.0	17.0	13.0	221	$5.80	$1,282	10,516
	2004	20.0	19.0	**18.0	342	**$7.90	**$2,702	10,471
	2005	55.0	54.0	17.0	935			19,695
		(000)	(000)	Lbs.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Canola	2003	28.0	27.0	940	25,380	--	--	1,512,250
	2004	*15.0	*15.0	**1,590	23,850	--	--	1,339,530
	2005	17.0	16.5	1,290	*21,285			1,580,985
Mustard Seed	2003	20.5	20.2	610	12,322	--	--	77,372
	2004	11.5	11.4	700	7,980	--	--	56,290
	2005	11.5	10.8	580	*6,264	--	--	35,114
Safflower	2003	**42.5	**42.0	770	32,340	--	--	274,755
	2004	33.5	31.0	*680	*21,080	--	--	175,765
	2005	*30.0	29.0	**890	25,810			192.545
Sunflower	2003	2.6	*1.2	763	915	--	--	2,665,226
	2004	5.0	4.5	975	4,388	--	--	2,049,613
	2005	6.8	6.4	**1,150	**7,360			3,870,910

1/ Season average price and value of production for 2005 are not yet available. -- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 2005/06 wheat ending stocks are 542 million bushels, 12 million bushels more than last month. Estimated total wheat production is 2,105 million bushels, up 7 million bushels based on increased harvested area. Total domestic use and exports are unchanged but changes are made in use and stocks by class. Hard Red Spring wheat stocks are up 20 million bushels and Soft Red Winter wheat stocks are down 14 million bushels from last month. There are smaller changes in the stocks of the other wheat classes. The projected 2005/06 price range is $3.25 to $3.50 per bushel, unchanged from last month.

Global wheat production in 2005/06 is up slightly, consumption is down fractionally, exports and imports increase fractionally, and ending stocks rise slightly. Foreign production is up nearly 1 million tons due primarily to larger crops in China and EU-25, partially offset by smaller crops in Kazakhstan and Russia. Projected foreign exports are up because of larger exports by Paraguay and Bulgaria. Foreign consumption is down, with the largest month-to-month decrease occurring in Russia. Forecast foreign ending stocks are up 1 million tons due to larger stocks in China, EU-25, Croatia, and Bulgaria, partially offset by smaller stocks in Kazakhstan and Paraguay.

Projected 2005/06 U.S. corn stocks rise slightly from last month due to increased production that is nearly offset by higher use. Estimated 2005/06 corn production is up 80 million bushels based on increased harvested area, partially offset by lower yields. Projected 2005/06 exports are down 50 million bushels from last month based on the slow pace of sales, increased competition, and reduced imports by Canada. Projected feed and residual use is up 125 million bushels because of strong use in the first quarter. No changes are made to projected U.S. 2005/06 corn food, seed, and industrial use. Ending stocks are up 7 million bushels to 2,426 million, and are 314 million larger than the previous year. The projected price range for 2005/06 corn is $1.75 to $2.05 per bushel, up 15 cents on the low end and 5 cents on the upper end from last month. The price is raised because prices received by farmers (reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service) have been above cash prices. This suggests that farmers forward contracted a substantial portion of the crop when prices were higher.

Estimated 2005/06 sorghum production is up 6 million bushels based on larger harvested area. There are no changes in forecast exports or food, seed, and industrial use. However, feed and residual use is down 10 million bushels from last month due to smaller-than-expected use in the first quarter of the marketing year. Projected ending stocks are up 16 million bushels from last month. Grain sorghum prices are projected to average $1.55 to $1.85, up 10 cents on the low end of the range from last month.

Estimated 2005/06 barley production is down fractionally. Forecast feed and residual use is down 10 million bushels and stocks rise 10 million from last month. Projected prices are unchanged from last month. Estimated 2005/06 oats production is down fractionally. Forecast feed and residual use is down 5 million bushels and stocks rise 5 million from last month. Projected prices are unchanged from last month.

The outlook for global coarse grains in 2005/06 is for larger production, little change in consumption, slightly reduced trade, and higher stocks relative to last month. Foreign production is up nearly 2.7 million tons with the largest increases projected in China and EU-25. These gains are partially offset by smaller crops in Russia and Argentina. Foreign 2005/06 coarse grain consumption is down 3.6 million tons with large decreases projected in Russia and Brazil as well as other countries. Imports are projected down for Canada, Brazil, and Israel but up for EU-25 and several other countries. In addition to the lower projected exports from the United States, exports decline for Argentina but rise for Brazil. Foreign 2005/06 ending stocks rise 9.2 million tons from last month. The largest increases in foreign stocks occur in Brazil, China, and EU-25. Brazil's 2005/06 beginning stocks are up over 4 million tons due to revisions to domestic use and stocks estimates for previous years. The largest decline in foreign ending stocks are projected for Canada and Russia.
(continued on back page)

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates

U.S. oilseed production for 2005/06 is estimated at 96.4 million tons, up 1.4 million tons from last month, and up 0.5 million tons from last year. Although soybean production accounts for most of the increase, sunflower- seed, canola, cottonseed, and peanut production are also higher. Soybean production is estimated at 3,086 million bushels, up 43 million bushels from last month based on higher yields and slightly higher harvested area. Soybean exports are reduced 70 million bushels to 950 million bushels primarily due to continuing weak sales to EU-25 and China. Export competition from South America has been unusually strong in recent months, reflecting large available supplies from record 2004/05 soybean crops. Soybean crush is raised this month due to a lower meal extraction rate. Soybean stocks are projected at 505 million bushels, up 100 million bushels from last month.

The U.S. season average soybean price range for 2005/06 is projected at $5.10 to $5.80 per bushel, up 10 cents on both ends of the range. Prices are raised based on a higher-than-expected season average price to date. Soybean oil prices are forecast at 20.5 to 22.5 cents per pound compared with 20.5 to 23.5 last month. Soybean meal prices are projected at $165 to $180 per short ton compared with $155 to $180 last month.

Global oilseed production for 2005/06 is projected at a record 389.0 million tons, up 2.0 million tons. Foreign production is projected at 292.5 million tons, up 0.6 million tons. Global sunflower- seed production is projected at 29.9 million tons, up 0.7 million tons from last month. Russia's sunflower- seed crop is raised 600,000 tons to 6.4 million tons due to higher yields. Other oilseed production changes include an increased rapeseed production for India and EU-25, and reduced palm oil production for Malaysia. Brazil soybean production for 2004/05 is raised 2 million tons to 53 million tons, a record despite drought in southern Brazil.

Forecasts for 2006 assume a continuation of policies currently in place among U.S. trading partners. Subsequent forecasts will reflect any announced changes.

Small changes are made to U.S. meat production forecasts for 2005 and 2006. Beef and pork production forecasts for 2005 are slightly changed to reflect preliminary December slaughter information. Beef production in 2006 is raised to reflect increased cattle imports. Although the December 28 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report indicated stability in U.S. pork production, increased swine imports result in higher 2006 pork production. Poultry meat production forecasts are raised in 2005 because preliminary production data points to higher last quarter output. Turkey hatchery data indicates slightly higher turkey production in the first half of 2006.

Forecast beef imports in 2005 are reduced from last month, and beef exports are unchanged. Beef imports in 2006 are lowered slightly as reduced shipments from Canada more than offset gains from other markets. Beef exports for 2006 are raised because the United States now has access to Japan and Hong Kong markets. Pork exports in 2006 are reduced slightly due to lower exports to Asia as beef exports increase. However, the decline is partly offset by increased pork sales to other markets. Broiler exports in 2005 and 2006 are reduced, in part reflecting consumer reactions to recent avian influenza discoveries in several markets.

The forecast cattle price for 2006 is increased as supplies of Choice grade cattle remain tight and exports to Japan gradually increase. Hog price for 2006 is unchanged. Broiler prices in 2006 are reduced as current broiler prices have weakened.

Milk supply and use forecasts for 2005 and 2006 are little changed from last month. Whey and butter price forecasts are changed fractionally from last month, but the Class III and Class IV milk price forecasts are unchanged. The all milk price forecast for 2006 is raised slightly to $13.40 to $14.20 per cwt.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2005

Year Begin-ning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Begin-ning Stocks	Prod-uction	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disap-pearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	-- Million Bushels --											$
1988	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003	491	2,345	63	2,899	912	80	203	1,194	1,158	2,353	546	3.40
2004	546	2,158	71	2,775	905	79	189	1,172	1,063	2,235	540	3.40
2005 3/	540	2,105	85	2,730	910	78	200	1,188	1,000	2,188	542	3.25-3.50

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 2006--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Egg Production
Farms & Land in Farms
Cattle Inventory
Sheep Inventory
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Ag Prices Received

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